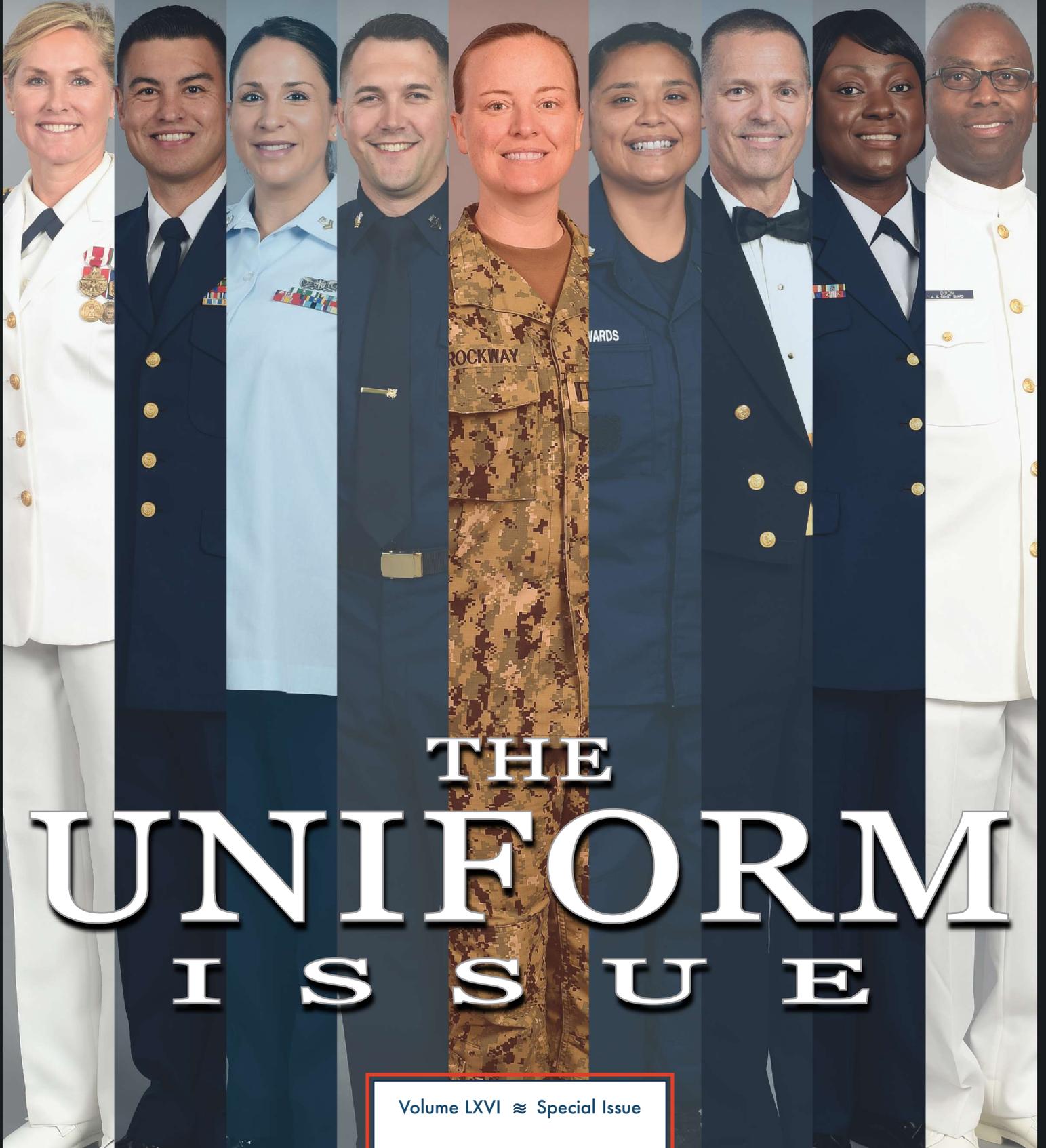


# RESERVIST

Official Publication of the United States Coast Guard Reserve

[reserve.uscg.mil/magazine](http://reserve.uscg.mil/magazine)



THE

# UNIFORM

# ISSUE

Volume LXVI ≈ Special Issue

# THANK YOU

This long-awaited issue of *Reservist* would not have been possible without the assistance of the members of the Uniform Program, including: **Hayes Davis, Rocky Ennis, Chris Moulton, Rob Evelyn, and Alison Mack-DiIulio**. These fine people took time out of their schedules to explain the process of making sure our Coast Guardsmen are outfitted appropriately, right from their first day in the service. Thank you to **Master Chiefs Jason Vanderhaden, Buck Ward, Vince Patton and Skip Bowen**, as well as **Scott Price** from the Historian's Office, for providing information on the history of the uniform. Thanks to **Meredith Burns** and **Kyle Niemi** for help reviewing these 60 pages for copy editing/uniformity errors. **Telfair Brown**, we appreciate the use of the portrait studio!

We're also indebted to the team of sharp-looking reservists who volunteered to demonstrate the uniform, including: **Emily Brockway, Rodrigo Brinski, Erick Carleton, Alexandra Costescu, Byron Dixon, Chrissie Edwards, Terry-Ann Francis, Michael Frank, Allen Garneau, Steve Graff, Blaine Meserve-Nibley, Fiorella "Cris" Michelucci, Earl Milstead, Tracey Norman, Daryl Schaffer, Jocelyn Soriano, Krystal Wolfe**, and the only person who was also in our 2006 issue, **Jennifer Grzelak-Ledoux**.

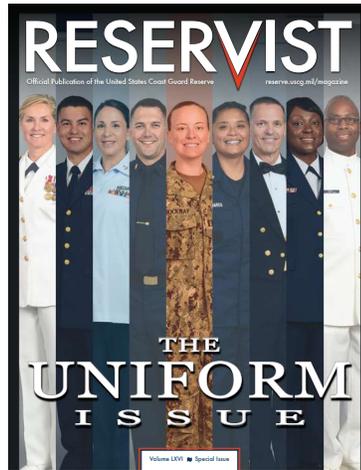
We had many volunteers, and when we was at a loss for some of the harder-to-find uniforms, no one turned down the request for help. Chris and I are thankful to each of you.



**Iconic crew from the Uniform Issue 2006**

*Disclaimer: Information in the Uniform Issue 2019 is intended for Coast Guard personnel as a quick reference for Coast Guard uniform standards. The images used illustrate the proper wearing of Coast Guard uniforms based on the Uniform Regulations, COMDTINST M1020.6J. An electronic version of the Uniform Regulations is online at: <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/directives>. Find "Commandant Instruction Manuals" along the left and scroll to CIM\_1020\_6J.*

Special  
Uniform  
Issue  
2019



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## RESERVIST

Celebrating Our 66th Year!

Volume LXVI ≈ Special Issue  
[reserve.uscg.mil/magazine](http://reserve.uscg.mil/magazine)  
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*RESERVIST (COMDTPUB 1001.29) is published by the Commandant, Director of Reserve & Military Personnel, U.S. Coast Guard. It is intended for information only and is not authority for official action. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security or U.S. Coast Guard. The editor reserves the right to select and edit all materials for publication. We continue to strive for perfection, yet unattained.*

# FROM THE UNIFORM PROGRAM

By Mr. Hayes Davis,  
Uniform Program Manager,  
(CG PSC-PSD-MU)

**G**reetings from the Uniform Program! So many things have transpired since the last edition of the uniform issue. For starters, there have been many recent leadership changes. We welcome Mr. Christopher Moulton, a retired chief warrant officer who is serving as the Uniform Distribution Center manager following three decades of service. Next, I would like to introduce Ms. Nancy Southwick, coming to the program by way of the Navy Research Facility and now serving as the chief textile technologist and supervisor for the Clothing Design Technical Office. Finally, I am Mr. Hayes Davis; I assumed responsibility of the Uniform Program in 2016 following more than 25 years of service to the Coast Guard as a commissioned officer. Together with the exceptional leadership and guidance provided by the Personnel Service Center, the Uniform Program is well positioned to bring sustainability, standardization, and innovation that will benefit and better serve our most important resource, our people!

The first order of business was to shore up the gap in Operational Dress Uniform availability. We, along with our partners at the Defense Logistics Agency, CG-4, CG-9121, and the UDC, quickly identified the shortages by size and set contract modifications to close the gap and ensure long-term sustainability. We are happy to announce that the Uniform Program will carry the ODU product line well into FY2022.

Cemented in the first chapter of the Uniform Regulations, the Uniform Board is now governed by a PSC charter, requiring key directorates populate a seat at the board to better evaluate organizational needs and requirements when reviewing fleet proposals. This past October 2018, we hosted Uniform Board 48, in which the board reviewed nearly 30 change recommendations put forth by the fleet, including revisions to grooming standards, ODU replacement options, accoutrement location changes and additions, and new uniform item developments. (All board recommendations are pre-decisional until reviewed and approved by higher authority.)

## Recent Developments

Championed by CG-1, the Uniform Program and Community Services Command are excited for the return of online uniform shopping. In 2015, the UDC e-commerce site was secured in

order to increase security measures. In March of 2018, we launched the “Uniforms” section of the ShopCGX.com site, returning online uniform sales to the fleet through a secure system. CSC serves as the host and manager of the capability with the UDC serving strictly as a fulfillment center thereby allowing 24/7 ordering through ShopCGX.com.

In February 2016, the CDTO joined in a coordinated effort with the Air Force, Army and Navy to evaluate current maternity utility uniforms in service. The Air Force Maternity Battle Uniform was identified as the benchmark pattern to commence all redesign efforts and to incorporate needed changes voiced by fleet personnel. Design modifications include blouse pocket relocation, expandable side-tab blouse adjustments, wider sleeves, longer back length, full circle nylon-spandex belly panel, front trouser hip pockets, and the addition of short, regular, and long trouser lengths. PSD-MU initiated a limited user evaluation to validate design modifications, uniform performance, and fleet satisfaction. The collaborative, multi-service effort resulted in an overwhelming positive response towards the newly designed uniforms. The “New” Maternity Operational Dress Uniform will replace the current maternity utility uniform and is currently in production with availability through the UDC in the very near future.

In an effort to reduce overall cost to our service and limit out-of-pocket expense to senior service personnel, PSD-MU engaged the Cross Service Warfighter Equipment Board to identify sister services with similar cold/outerwear requirements. With the Navy transition to the Navy Working Uniform Type III uniform as the everyday utility uniform, the Coast Guard’s Foul Weather Parka was identified as the replacement to the current Navy cold/wet weather jacket. A joint service coordinated specification review was completed to align service design and product specifications for sustainment by DLA. Through this coordinated effort, the Coast Guard was able to bring down costs by nearly 40 percent per jacket. UDC prices and enlisted members’ annual Clothing Maintenance Allowance will adjust organically through normal end of fiscal year price changes.

Although both the Coast Guard and Air Force share the men’s short and long sleeve light blue

## FROM THE EDITOR

I've always been a stickler for uniforms. One of my favorite sayings is, "The standard you walk by is the standard you accept." My friends know me as the person who's eternally checking gig lines, hair styles, crow spacing, ribbon order... but even after 20 years in the Coast Guard, I still have to *doublecheck* some things.

As a reserve officer, it's a mark of my professionalism that I have each piece right. The importance of the uniform is even reflected in the first step of the Use of Force Continuum: Officer Presence. The atmosphere of compliance is created, in part, by the officer's appearance, and the uniform is a big part of that. As Mark Twain said, "A policeman in plain clothes is a man; in his uniform, he is ten."

So true.

With that in mind, we're honored to put together this issue for you, but keep in mind, this isn't a replacement for the Uniform Regulations; it's a quick-reference guide.

The original Uniform Issue was a major undertaking, produced for reservists back in 2006 by the original dream team, CWO Ed Kruska and Chris Rose; it quickly became recognized as a great reference for active duty members as well. I know lots of people have been waiting for this one to replace the battered 2006 edition they have squirreled away.

The six people on the front cover have become well-

known, and the wording and images from that issue are all over the internet, even used by the Coast Guard Headquarters Uniform Program itself.

Inside this latest edition, you'll find all the old standards, but also some changes, including the NWU Type III.

We have an updated history article that explores the more recent history of our uniform, starting with the Bender Blues and going forward to today's untucked ODU. There's also a story on how our Uniform Program works together with the UDC, the online exchange and the research department to keep our members looking sharp.

And should you see something that you'd like changed in the Uniform Regulations, you can request it. Send your change through your command to PSC-PSU-MU. Include the idea/issue, the suggestion (including costs and benefits to the service), alternative solutions and enclosures if necessary. Email your suggestions to HQS-SMB-PSC-PSD-MU@uscg.mil.

Again, the standard you walk by is the standard you accept. It's everyone's responsibility to make us not just the world's premier Coast Guard, but also the sharpest looking as well.

**Anastasia Devlin**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

dress shirt and the female overblouse, each service still maintains individual service identity through unique pattern designs. In 2015, we met with the Air Force to discuss pattern/design alignment along with fabric enhancements that would benefit both services' personnel. Partnering with industry, we moved to a heavier cotton herringbone weave, which would better align the services with commercial standard for dress weight material. This fabric has better elasticity for comfort, improved moisture management and wrinkle resistance, and the heavier material means it's less translucent, reducing modesty concerns. Design improvements were made to the collar, sleeves, and shirt body, and we standardized the sizes and pattern. The new light blue dress shirt is currently in production and will be soon available at ShopCGX.com.

### Future Plans

In an effort to provide a garment better suited for the operational and law enforcement environments, the Uniform Program has been working with DoD to determine what capabilities exist and what items might be best for these mission sets. We have identified several potential options worth exploring. Essentially, we have identified a shirt that would be worn in lieu of the ODU blouse in warm environments where life jackets and LE vests are used. (This new shirt will not replace the regular uniform of the day.) The body of the shirt will consist of a breathable stretch material that could be tucked into the

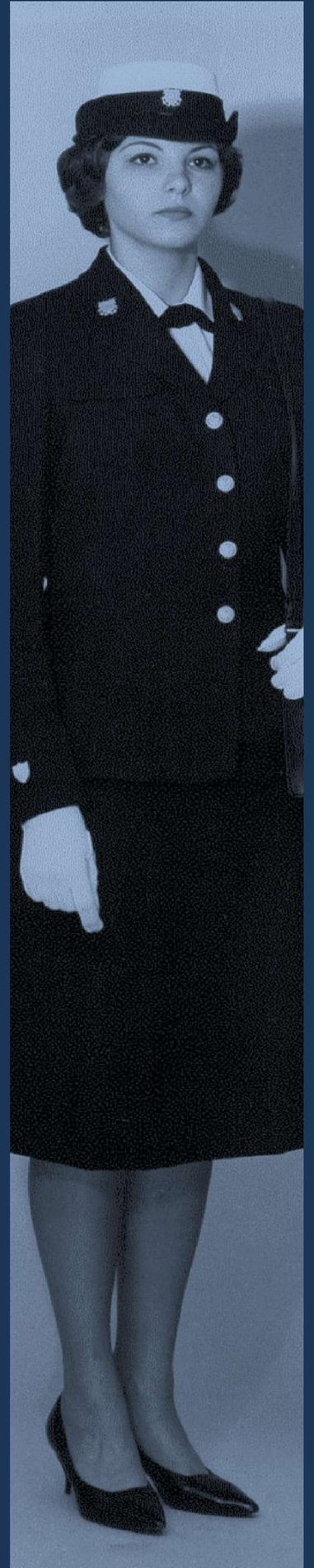
trousers, allowing easier access to law enforcement equipment and a breathable body that allows air exchange under load carrying and ballistic protection systems, and the sleeves will look similar to the current ODU for durability. The shirt will consist of a three-quarter front zip and mandarin-style collar. We're working quickly toward a viable prototype for a limited user evaluation by summer 2019.

Breaking squelch! Many of you may have heard rumors about the Coast Guard potentially moving to the NWU Type III uniform. The rumors are just rumors at this point. Many factors have to be considered, including need, joint service approvals, production requirements, coordinated product specifications, transition plan, current stock divestment plan, and cost to service and personnel. We continue to test and evaluate all options in order to produce the best uniform to meet the needs of our service and our service members.

### A Final Word

Overall, it's our mission to be progressive, professional, and financially prudent. We take pride in providing high-quality uniforms and goods in the most efficient manner possible. A special thank you to the UDC staff for expediting much needed uniform replacements to members affected by or responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence and Michael.

*Semper Paratus.*





# HISTORY OF THE UNIFORM P A R T I I

THE COAST GUARD'S SWITCH  
TO BENDER BLUES AND ODUS

STORY BY  
ANASTASIA DEVLIN



**THE UNIFORM ISSUE 2006 INCLUDED A SECTION OF A 1990 ARTICLE ON THE HISTORY OF THE UNIFORM BY DONALD CANNEY. THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, AVAILABLE FROM THE HISTORIAN'S OFFICE, COVERED THE UNIFORM IN DETAIL BACK TO THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE. THIS STORY COVERS THE LAST FIVE DECADES AND PICKS UP WHERE CANNEY LEFT OFF.**

**S**ince the early 1800s, and perhaps in periods even before that, U.S. Coast Guard uniforms largely mirrored U.S. Navy uniforms. Both sea services, the Navy and Coast Guard had little difference between the two uniforms, and the Coast Guard made changes only when necessary.

Every time the Navy came out with new uniform regulations, Coast Guard units received a packet of instructions on how to adapt them. Rating badges were swapped, service insignia and buttons switched and "U.S. Coast Guard" was emblazoned across enlisted hat bands, but otherwise, the difference between the two services couldn't be discerned from a distance.

From World War II through the early 1970s, officers of both services had two

uniforms for summer: a khaki uniform and summer whites, and two uniforms for winter: the dress white and dress blue suits. (All these uniforms are still in use by the Navy today, but only the Navy's dress white and dinner dress uniforms are still used by the Coast Guard.)

In the same time period, enlisted men had three uniforms: dungarees (light blue-gray chambray shirts and dark blue denim pants with stenciled names) and traditional "crackerjacks" in black or white. Up until 1967, petty officers and non-rated personnel wore the traditional "Dixie cup" hat. According to Naval History and Heritage Command, enlisted uniforms reflected sailors' surroundings and the work they did, and many parts served a practical purpose.



**FOR MANY YEARS, THE COAST GUARD'S UNIFORMS MIRRORED THE NAVY'S. COAST GUARD PATROL FORCE FOR THE ALBANY, N.Y., REGATTA, 1929.**



**COAST GUARDSMEN WEARING DUNGAREES REPOSITION A BUOY, CIRCA 1960.**

The Dixie cup was made from sail canvas and doubled as a flotation device, the black neckerchief could be used as a battle dressing in emergencies, and the bell-bottoms could be quickly removed and used to support a sailor who fell overboard.

Chief petty officers were also authorized to wear the same khaki uniform as officers, and being advanced to senior enlisted ranks had the additional prestige of trading in either the “Donald Duck” style cover or the enlisted “flat hat” for today’s more-recognizable combination cover.

“It was pretty exciting to be promoted to chief,” said retired Master Chief Petty Officer Buck Ward, who’d enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1967, just after the Coast Guard was transferred from the Department of Treasury to the Department of Transportation. According to Ward, newly promoted chiefs weren’t just making the rank. “You were ‘making the hat,’” said Ward, “and having those khakis on, that was a big deal.”

Uniform items could be purchased from about a dozen Uniform Distribution Centers, and they were of mixed quality. Unfortunately, many of the enlisted uniforms were purchased in local stores, which, ironically, left much to be desired in the way of uniformity.

“The shirts were so cheap they sometimes caught fire,” said Ward. “But you could get Seafarers [pants] for like \$4 a pair; that was a lot of money then. I loved those

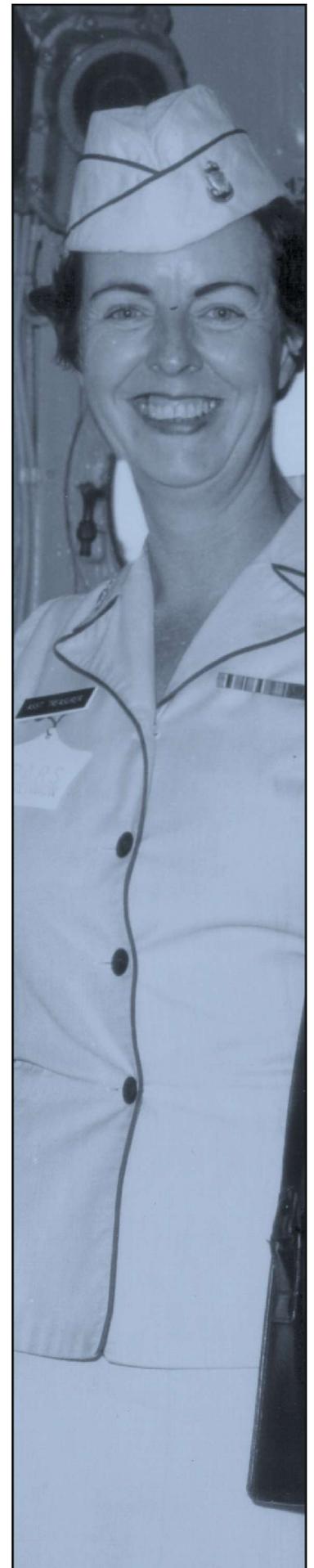
pants, they fit just perfect. I never felt better than when I was wearing those Seafarers. And the crackerjacks, you ironed them inside out, pressed the seams flat. That makes them bell when you turn them back right side out. And, if you were cool, you wore Wellington boots.”

Ward and his shipmates perfected uniform maintenance, and they took pride in wearing it around. Civilian clothing wasn’t allowed aboard ships for those E-6 and below, so “locker clubs” sprang up in ports. They became a quick stop for sailors coming ashore. For a few bucks, sailors could rent a locker, shower up, get a hot meal and change into civilian duds before heading into town. (They reversed the process, donning uniforms before heading back to the ship before curfew.)

The uniforms between the two sea services were so similar that retired Master Chief Petty Officer Vince Patton once told a story about how he confused the two services. Seeking the Navy, he accidentally walked into the Coast Guard recruiter’s office in the early 1970s.

“I was too embarrassed to walk out, so I decided to wait until the recruiter finished talking to me, and then go join the Navy,” said Patton. “However, not ever knowing anything about the Coast Guard at the time, I became really interested in their mission.”

Patton would go on to become the eighth Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard.





## A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM

In 1970, Adm. Chester R. Bender became commandant, and at a Coast Guard Officers Association luncheon, he made a comment that he'd like to see a new uniform for the service. This idea for change came on the heels of the 1967 addition of the "racing stripe." Servicemen didn't realize how serious the commandant was, and some were a little dismayed when questionnaires were sent to the fleet regarding changes to the enlisted uniform. (Many officers still believed their uniforms were safe.) A poll in the *Navy Times* in 1973 shows that 67 percent of Coast Guardsmen preferred their old uniform; less than 20 percent favored a change.

Chiefs nationwide expressed their dismay at the potential loss of their beloved uniforms.

Chief Petty Officer James D. Walker expressed the opinion of the 155 members of the Eighth District Chief Petty Officers Association when he wrote to the commandant.

"Part of the reward for the years of hard work put forth by all chief petty officers to attain the position of Chief is wearing the distinctive uniform of a chief; it is a uniform worn with pride," said Walker. "Furthermore, the uniform is a recognized symbol of authority and leadership and any change would be detrimental to its effectiveness.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that the present uniform for chiefs be retained."

Another discussion point revolved around issuing the same uniform for officers and enlisted. More than 60 percent of the officer corps disagreed with the idea of not being able to spot an officer from a distance based on the uniform he wore.

Bender, adamant about the necessity of the impending change, was reported to have said, "This is where the officer corps and I part company."

The Uniform Program at Coast Guard Headquarters worked with the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Unit in Natick, Mass., to review new uniform colors, styles and fabrics. They chose the uniform still in use today: a dark blue single-breasted jacket with matching pants, a pale blue, long sleeve shirt, dark blue neck tie, combination cap with white cover, and black shoes and socks.

In March 1974, recruits were issued the new uniform, and all enlisted with a year left on their contract also received a new set of uniforms. In 1975, the officer corps followed suit, and by 1977, the service was fully outfitted in "Bender Blues."

"The intent was to fashion a uniform for all-season, all-climate wear," said Lt. Cmdr. Paul Patrinos, head of Uniform Logistics in an interview in 1975, one year after the switch. "The new Coast Guard blue uniform is going to supplant all the various blue, khaki and white uniforms we've been



THE WORKING UNIFORM OF THE 1970S VARIED WIDELY AS DIFFERENT UNIFORMS WERE TESTED AND PRODUCTION WAS STANDARDIZED.

COAST GUARD PHOTO.



IN SEPTEMBER 1970, ONE COAST GUARD STATION SENT THE COMMANDANT A SUGGESTION FOR A NEW WORKING UNIFORM. THE UNIFORM ON THE FAR RIGHT LOOKS IDENTICAL TO THE WORKING BLUE UNIFORM, WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED EIGHT YEARS LATER.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE COAST GUARD HISTORIANS OFFICE.

wearing. So where we used to change from, say, blue to whites or khakis with a seasonal variation, now we'll be in a single uniform around the calendar."

Ward had other concerns.

"Now the Navy could pick out who we were, which started a lot more fights overseas," he said wryly.

Along with the new service dress blue, the service switched its naval dungarees for a new working uniform.

The first iteration was very short-lived; it consisted of dark blue pants and a pullover-style dark blue, short sleeve jumper with two pockets and a three-button collar. The rating patch was worn on the left sleeve.

Patton remembered the Coast Guardsmen rebelled hard against the pullover-style uniform, and the service looked for a temporary fix until the replacement uniform could be created.

"When they allowed us to switch back to the dungaree work uniform, my entire radioman class took those things off and threw them in the trash; there were trash cans all over Petaluma filled with those pullover uniforms."

Patton said, "In '76, the new working blue uniform was created, but it would be a few years before it could be issued to everyone, so the short-term fix was people

could buy the Dickies brand of work clothes, which mostly was sold at Sears."

By the very late 1970s, Coast Guardsmen began appearing in the more commonly-remembered version of the "working blue" uniform, which looked similar to the commercial clothing: a cotton navy-colored shirt, matching pants, black work boots and blue plastic name tag. A variation of this was the "undress blue" uniform: a mix of working blue pants and light-blue short-sleeve shirt, worn with rank insignia and name tag only.

This wash-and-wear uniform was low maintenance, worn with the new service ball cap. Varying years would show "USCG," "U.S. Coast Guard" or the unit name across the front of the cap. The whole uniform became affectionately remembered as the "gas station attendant" uniform.

Oddly enough, Coast Guard Station Portland's officer-in-charge, Chief Petty Officer Richard F. Malm, wrote to the commandant in early 1970 (seven years prior to the issuance of the working blue uniform) with a design (see above) of a "two piece medium blue, tailored but not tight fitting, short sleeve, open collar, light weight material" accompanied by "a





AT RIGHT, THE WORKING BLUE UNIFORM OF THE 1990s.

IMAGE COURTESY COAST GUARD RECRUITING COMMAND

good quality, washable, baseball style cap with metal rank/rating marks." The sketch looks exactly like the working blue of the 1980s.

### HOLLYWOOD STYLE FOR COAST GUARD LADIES IN UNIFORM

Women joined the active duty Coast Guard in the early 1970s, accompanied by their own distinct set of uniforms. But with the switch to Bender Blues in 1974, female service members' uniforms were adapted to mirror those of their male shipmates. The Coast Guard's senior-most female officer, Capt. Eleanor L'Ecuyer, was responsible for upgrading the uniforms. Through a Coast Guard friend in Long Beach, Calif., L'Ecuyer was able to get a meeting with eight-time Academy-award winning costume designer Edith Head, costumer to Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn, Danny Kaye and John Wayne. Intrigued, Head agreed to take on the project.

Universal Studios allowed the fashion icon to spend time designing the Coast Guard's female uniforms, creating looks based on pants suits, dresses and skirts, including a light blue, short-sleeved polyester top with gold-tone buttons, pockets and a sewn-on belt, and the infamous Coast Guard-striped ascot. Head said the fresh, stylish female uniforms, "should last 30 years or more," and she was

presented with the Meritorious Public Service Award by the commandant, Adm. Owen W. Siler, who approved the designs.

Head called the assignment a "highlight" in her career, and as she predicted, the service wouldn't see a major uniform change for 30 years.

### THE BIRTH AND REBIRTH OF THE ODU

It was true that the dress uniform wouldn't change for 30 years, but Patton said the service was hungry for a change to the operational uniform, especially those doing law enforcement while wearing it. He made that a priority during his tenure as the MCPOCG from 1998 to 2002.

"I remember being at a morning flag brief in early 2000, and I brought with me my copy of the Washington Post," said Patton. "I found an ad for a Sears water heater, and the guy standing next to the water heater looked like he's wearing a Coast Guard working blue uniform. I took that ad to the briefing and showed it to [Coast Guard Commandant Adm. James Loy]. He said 'Okay, do whatever it takes to get the uniform fixed.'"

After a visit to a Department of Defense battle dress uniform factory, Patton asked what it would take to have their uniform made in dark blue. It turned out to be just a few key strokes. With 50 new uniforms in hand, Patton made a visit to the Coast

Guard's Tactical Law Enforcement Teams, who'd been requesting a change for years. Tucking the blouse to get access to the belt loops, the teams could still wear their gun belts. Eventually, more than 300 members in units nationwide tested the new uniform, which was referred to in early days as "two-piece coveralls." It was a hit.

The events of 9/11 only served to spur the process on, and Patton requested additional testing to ensure the uniform would work across all mission areas, which was complete by May 2002. Similar to the service-wide changes in 1974, the financial and logistical work to change the uniform for 44,000 Coast Guardsmen began. With an additional 30,000 auxiliaries also wearing the uniform, distribution was expected to take two years, but was completed in half the time.

In early 2004, the new solid blue-colored "operational dress uniform" became the official working uniform, replacing both the working blue and undress blue uniforms. As noted in the 2006 Uniform Issue of *Reservist*, the ODU went from the drawing board to the field in under 18 months, making it the fastest uniform redesign in the history of all military services. The lower blouse pockets were removed in order to tuck the blouse into

the matching dark blue trousers, which boasted useful cargo pockets. The brass belt was replaced with a black riggers' belt, and the blouse sleeves could be worn down or accordion-rolled up. The black boots and ball cap from the working blue uniform remained.

Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara called the it "the single largest change to our uniform inventory in the last 25 years."

During the responses to Hurricane Katrina and Deepwater Horizon, Adm. Thad Allen appeared in media interviews, cutting an impressive and authoritative figure in the more militarily-styled ODU. Behind the scenes, though, there was more fine-tuning being done.

The now-retired MCPOCG #9, Master Chief Petty Officer Charles "Skip" Bowen, remembered being on a trip to the Army's Sergeants Major Academy. While there, he wore their battle dress uniform himself, and found it to be much more comfortable than the tucked ODU. Upon his return to Headquarters, Bowen worked with the Uniform Program to prototype a new blouse.

In 2012, the ODU officially got an update. Carol Brewton, the Coast Guard's Uniform Program manager at the time, said, "By untucking [the blouse], it gives us more



**FIVE RESERVE MEMBERS OF A MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY TEAM PARTICIPATE IN AN ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY WHILE WEARING THE DESERT CAMOUFLAGE UTILITY UNIFORM.**

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ALLYSON E.T. CONROY



**WEARING THE UNTUCKED OPERATIONAL DRESS UNIFORM, ADM. KARL SCHULTZ, COAST GUARD COMMANDANT, ADDRESSES THE MEMBERS OF COAST GUARD SECTOR LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH.**

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS MARK BARNEY

airflow so the uniform's cooler. We improved the fabric making it more durable, also better color fastness, a little less wrinkle..."

"People were concerned with the amount of the extra material up front," said another member of the Uniform Program staff at the time, then Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dave McLoughlin. He said the new ODU was redesigned with a slimmer look. They also added embroidered Coast Guard shields to the pockets of the blouse and pants, and the hook and loop fastener was replaced with buttons.

**CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE ODU**

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Jason Vanderhaden is currently working with the Uniform Program on a third generation of the ODU. The current uniform can be very heavy and hot in warm climates. Vanderhaden and the Uniform Program are working on a lightweight

version, which just completed the testing phase and is in the final approval process. The group is also evaluating the possibility of allowing members to wear the American flag and Coast Guard ensign on the ODU.

"As the Coast Guard continues to operate in a wide variety of demanding conditions, we need to outfit our members in a uniform that enables flexibility, presents a professional appearance and above all supports readiness," said Vanderhaden. "With that in mind, we're looking at improving the ODU's functionality and source stability while keeping the overall presence of a sharp military uniform on par with our sister services."

The confidence that comes from wearing the Coast Guard uniform is universal, regardless of rank or time served. The uniform continues to be a point of pride among the members of the Coast Guard, and serves as a reminder to the public of the strength of the service. ≈

**"AS THE COAST GUARD CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF DEMANDING CONDITIONS, WE NEED TO OUTFIT OUR MEMBERS IN A UNIFORM THAT ENABLES FLEXIBILITY, PRESENTS A PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE AND, ABOVE ALL, SUPPORTS READINESS."**

**— JASON VANDERHADEN  
MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD**



**A COMPANY COMMANDER AT COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER CAPE MAY, N.J., ADJUSTS A RECRUIT'S COVER BEFORE A CHANGE-OF-WATCH CEREMONY.**

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS  
CYNTHIA OLDHAM

**A COAST GUARD CAPTAIN IN TROPICAL BLUE LONG BOARDS THE COAST GUARD CUTTER *EAGLE*.**

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS  
CYNTHIA OLDHAM



**A CLOSE UP OF A COAST GUARD PORT SECURITY UNIT SERVICE MEMBER DONNING A NAVY COMBAT UTILITY UNIFORM TYPE III.**

PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS  
CYNTHIA OLDHAM



# Seamless Teamwork

There are several key components to getting Coast Guard personnel outfitted efficiently and uniformly. The Coast Guard's Headquarters Uniform Branch, the Clothing Design Technical Office, the Uniform Distribution Center and the online Coast Guard Exchange work together to present the polished look of the U. S. Coast Guard. Each has its role in the process.

## Uniform Division

The first is the Uniform Program, headed up by Hayes Davis, a Coast Guardsman with more than 25 years of service. Davis and his team are continually pulling apart each uniform to see how applying new industry standards could make each piece better.

"We progressively look at each uniform as a system. For instance, the dress uniform is a system: shirt, pants, jacket, shoes. In the service, system maintenance is a process, like how radar systems are looked at and maintained, modified, upgraded. We are working to develop a similar systematic approach by reviewing each uniform system periodically to ensure a continuous process improvement cycle."

Davis explained that the current dress pant cut was likely last revised during the 1980s where men wore their pants buttoned above the navel; with the current style, men wear pants lower, more at a natural waist around the hip bones, but doing so with an improper cut dress pant causes the pants to drag. For the same reason, our wool uniform pants aren't made of the same material as our grandfathers' dress slacks.

Therefore, military uniform designers need to keep an eye on fashion trends, incorporating those new trends that still allow for a sharp military appearance.

"Wearing near 100 percent wool was great in the '50s," said

Davis, "but now we have smart fabrics that breathe, are significantly lighter, and are reactive to the wearer."

Davis said soon they'll be looking at the men's dress jacket.

"That heavy, hot, stiff, non-breathable fabric was designed to be worn by statues, but advancements in fabrics would make it look the same, but feel like a modern-day suit."

Davis and his team also serve as administration and executive assistant to the uniform board to add, improve, remove, revisit and review uniform change proposals. The board works to channel fleet and program suggestions, ensuring approved items meet the needs of the service along with benefitting the members.

The improvements to the operational dress uniform, the foul weather parka and the female untucked shirt have all come through recognizing new industry standards and putting them to work in order to benefit the service members.

"Retaining qualified energetic employees is a challenge for any business," said Davis, "and the military is no different. Appearance plays a role in the retention of service personnel—how a person feels, the proper tools for the job, all play a vital role in personnel performance. The uniform is a huge part of military life. We want to provide sharp military uniforms that people want to wear."





**THERE ARE VARIOUS STEPS TO THE UNIFORM MANUFACTURING PROCESS. AT LEFT, A WORKER ATTACHES A SLEEVE TO THE PARKA. TOP RIGHT, A FLEECE LINER IS MEASURED TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY OF SIZING. BOTTOM RIGHT, A SIZE LABEL IS ADDED TO THE GARMENT.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROB EVELYN  
UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION CENTER.

## Clothing Design Technical Office (Research + Development)

Alison Mack-DiIulio, a clothing designer for the Coast Guard Clothing Design Technical Office, has been at the Army Research Facility in Natick, Mass., for 32 years, originally with the Army in the fabric testing lab, then the Navy in the dress clothing area. In fact, when she got to the CDTO, her first project was creating the untucked ODU.

Even seeing a set of them at the dry cleaners makes her think, "Hey, that's mine."

The CDTO employs a handful of designers like Mack-DiIulio who develop and maintain the uniforms Coast Guardsmen wear. Everything from zippers to pockets to fabrics gets tested, prototyped, and evaluated as gear and uniform items are improved.

The CDTO is part of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center, which conducts research and development (including fielding and sustainment) of food, clothing, shelters, airdrop systems, and other service member support items for the U.S. military. However, the CDTO's primary focus is to develop and maintain uniform items throughout their service life.

For example, the untucked ODU was developed by the CDTO: the research, the pattern, the specs, the prototypes, the fit test and the evaluation are all done by Mack-DiIulio and her colleagues. It's a long-term process, which can take up to two years to complete from inception to procurement.

But their work doesn't stop at the roll out of the new

uniform piece; once it's procured, they still have to maintain quality assurance, testing the products on the shelves and following up on complaints about uniform items. They even work on the smallest details, like buttons that fall off when the thread isn't the right kind to secure them to the garment.

Being located near the other services' researchers means the Coast Guard has access to trials, tests, equipment and specialists the DoD services are using.

"It's very collaborative there," said Mack-DiIulio. "We do use their testing facilities if we need fabric tested, or if we need a prototype made we can go over to the Navy pattern room. It's good that we're all there together, and I think it works."

The newest item the CDTO is working on is a lightweight ODU.

"Our ODU can be pretty hot and humid," said Mack-DiIulio. "We have a lot of people who said it would be nice to have something a little more lightweight. You've got to be comfortable when you work. People are in places that are so hot, and you just can't put it on and expect to be comfortable and do your job."

Giving people that comfort feels rewarding for Mack-DiIulio.

"You listen to what the people in the Coast Guard want, and they get it, and that feels good," she said. "That's what we like."

## UDC and CGX online sales

Years ago, clothing lockers were spread all over the Coast Guard, and members couldn't reliably expect to get quality uniforms every time. Occasionally, service members would visit department stores or military surplus stores to get items of clothing, leading to differences in quality, fabric and color from uniform to uniform.

In 1983, the UDC was established at Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, N.J., and all clothing lockers (except the one at the Coast Guard Academy) were consolidated into one facility. Eventually the UDC moved to four warehouses in Woodbine, N.J., where roughly 25 employees would sell uniforms via phone, mail order, fax, and in person. On average, the Woodbine UDC received more than 600 phone calls per day, but walk-in customer orders would delay the process. The charge-to-pay process also bogged the system down, allowing members to place small, singular orders such as a ribbon or collar device.

With the advent of the internet, the Coast Guard's online ordering began in the mid-2000s, but closed in 2015, during which the public-facing and internal security systems both received an upgrade, including necessary security enhancements. After the three-year hiatus, e-commerce began

anew in March 2018. The Coast Guard Exchange now operates on ShopCGX.com, and members can order any uniform items and have them delivered free.

At the same time online sales were introduced, in-person sales at the Cape May UDC were secured, freeing employees to meet the growing online demand. Now the UDC processes around 3,000 orders per month, said Chris Moulton, a retired Coast Guard chief warrant officer who recently became the manager of the UDC. Moulton said the UDC has seen a marked increase in efficiency of orders. With the move to online sales, phone calls have nearly stopped, enabling more staff members to fill orders faster. In fact, now, 95 percent of the UDC's orders are shipped within five days.

Prior to introduction of the online CGX, members serving outside the continental United States had a difficult time submitting orders during the standard operating hours, which were during eastern standard time.

"If you were in Guam trying to call the UDC," said Davis, "you'd have to be up at 2 a.m."

Now, all 120,000 uniformed members supported by the UDC, including those in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Public Health Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, can access the site at any time, 24 hours a day.



## Into the Future

Many people, including those working in the Uniform Program, Clothing Design Technical Office, Uniform Distribution Center, and Coast Guard Exchange, continue to provide Coast Guardsmen with the best uniforms to work across all mission areas, and working in tandem, they are accomplishing that goal.

"We aim to maintain an ear to the fleet, evaluating new design concepts, and provide the best service possible," said Davis. "It takes a good team to ensure the service is properly dressed." ≈

### ODU Facts:

- *The Coast Guard prototyped a blue version of each service's operational uniform when selecting the parts of the ODU;*
- *It takes 5 yards of blue fabric to make one set of ODUs;*
- *The ODU has dozens of sizes to ensure the correct fit for each service member;*
- *Female blouses are sized with odd numbers, and male blouse sizes are sized with even numbers;*
- *The shields on the ODU were designed as a security feature.*

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# THE UNIFORM ISSUE

# Operational Dress Uniform

Worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business.  
It is not a liberty uniform.

## Head Gear

Ball cap, unit ball cap, boonie hat, cold weather hat or watch cap.

## ODU Blouse

Sleeves rolled up or down.

## Coast Guard Blue Crew Neck T-Shirt

Unit T-shirt or unit sweatshirt, as authorized by the command.  
A long sleeve version of the standard T-shirt may optionally be worn when the sleeves are down on the ODU shirt. Thermal long sleeve undershirts may also be optionally worn under the required T-shirt (may not be visible above the neckline of the ODU T-shirt).

## Collar Insignia

Sew-on cloth insignia.

## Name Tape

Cloth name tape sewn above right pocket.

## Service Tape

Cloth "U. S. Coast Guard" service tape sewn above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most current authorized. A single, embroidered insignia is authorized. Temporary insignia authorized.

## Miniature Devices

Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs/OinCs.

## Identification Badge

Only MCPOCG, Command Master Chief/Senior Chief/Chief and Rating Force Master Chiefs are authorized to wear a single, current assignment badge on the ODU.

## Black Riggers Belt with Subdued Buckle

## ODU Trousers

Bloused when worn with safety boots, straight leg otherwise.

## Black Socks

## Safety Boots



# Operational Dress Uniform



Worn in any situation where any form of dress uniform is not required or more appropriate and while commuting, including brief stops for gas and drive-thru business.

It is not a liberty uniform.

## Head Gear

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## Miniature Devices

Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs/OinCs.

## Identification Badge

Only MCPOCG, Command Master Chief/Senior Chief/Chief and Rating Force Master Chiefs are authorized to wear a single, current assignment badge on the ODU.

## Black Riggers Belt with Subdued Buckle

## ODU Trousers

Bloused when worn with safety boots, straight leg otherwise.

## Black Socks

## Safety Boots

# Navy Working Uniform *Type III*

## Occasions for Wear

Subject to the uniform policies of the local operational commander, NWU Type III uniform is authorized for: Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) and support personnel deployed OCONUS in support of geographic combatant commander operations; Coast Guard personnel actively engaged in port security unit ADT/IDT, PSU basic skills courses or equivalent activities; personnel assigned to PATFORSWA and Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID) Team; and Headquarters/Area staffs visiting deployed units OCONUS. See *COMDTINST 1020.6J*.

## Head Gear

Eight-point USMC-style cap with embroidered rank insignia; sun hat (without insignia); watch cap.

## Blouse

Normal wear is outside the waistband of the NWU Type III trousers. (When directed, the shirt can be worn tucked inside trousers.) Sleeves rolled up (accordion style, with only the cuff showing) or down.

## Brown Cotton or Tan Moisture-Wicking Undershirt

### Center Chest Insignia Rank Tab

### Name Tape

Cloth name tape sewn above right pocket.

### Service Tape

Cloth "U. S. Coast Guard" tape sewn above left pocket.

## Patches

Unit patches are not authorized. When authorized, a U.S. flag shall be worn on the right shoulder pocket flap and Coast Guard ensign shall be worn on the left shoulder pocket flap. Both patches will be two-tone, matching the colors of the NWU Type II and III uniforms and affixed with hook and pile.

## Qualification Insignia

A maximum of two permanent warfare qualification insignia (or temporary as allowed by Coast Guard policy) is authorized. The primary breast insignia will be worn centered above and flush with the "U. S. Coast Guard" identification marking on the shirt.

## Miniature Devices

Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs, centered ¼" above the name tape.

## Identification Badge

Authorized for incumbent only.

## Brown Nylon Belt with Subdued Buckle

## NWU Trousers

Normal wear is fastened fully on the waist with belt buckle centered over the trouser fastener. The trouser legs shall be bloused with blousing straps so the blouse covers the top three rows of the boot eyelets.

## Black Socks

## Desert Tan Boots



# Navy Working Uniform Type III



## Occasions for Wear

Subject to the uniform policies of the local operational commander, NWU Type III uniform is authorized for: Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) and support personnel deployed OCONUS in support of geographic combatant commander operations; Coast Guard personnel actively engaged in port security unit ADT/IDT, PSU basic skills courses or equivalent activities; personnel assigned to PATFORSWA and Redeployment Assistance and Inspection Detachment (RAID) Team; and Headquarters/Area staffs visiting deployed units OCONUS. See COMDTINST 1020.6J.

## Head Gear

Eight-point USMC-style cap with embroidered rank insignia; sun hat (without insignia); watch cap.

## Blouse

Normal wear is outside the waistband of the NWU Type III trousers. (When directed, the shirt can be worn tucked inside trousers.) Sleeves rolled up (accordion style, with only the cuff showing) or down.

## Brown Cotton or Tan Moisture-Wicking Undershirt

## Center Chest Insignia Rank Tab

## Name Tape

Cloth name tape sewn above right pocket.

## Service Tape

Cloth "U. S. Coast Guard" tape sewn above left pocket.

## Patches

Unit patches are not authorized. When authorized, a U.S. flag shall be worn on the right shoulder pocket flap and Coast Guard ensign shall be worn on the left shoulder pocket flap. Both patches will be two-tone, matching the colors of the NWU Type II and III uniforms and affixed with hook and pile.

## Qualification Insignia

A maximum of two permanent warfare qualification insignia (or temporary as allowed by Coast Guard policy) is authorized. The primary breast insignia will be worn centered above and flush with the "U. S. Coast Guard" identification marking on the shirt.

## Miniature Devices

Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs and OinCs, centered ¼" above the name tape.

## Identification Badge

Authorized for incumbent only.

## Brown Nylon Belt with Subdued Buckle

## NWU Trousers

Normal wear is fastened fully on the waist with belt buckle centered over the trouser fastener. The trouser legs shall be bloused with blousing straps so the blouse covers the top three rows of the boot eyelets.

## Black Socks

## Desert Tan Boots

# Tropical Blue Long (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round at all occasions where coat and tie are not required.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## Light Blue Shirt, Short Sleeve

Military creases optional.

## Shoulder Boards (Officers)

### Collar Insignia (Enlisted)

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edges, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

### Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge ¼" above right pocket.

### Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge ¼" above left pocket.

### Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered ¼" above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered ¼" below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered ¼" above name tag.*

### Miniature Devices

Device is centered ¼" below top edge of left pocket flap.

*If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button ¼" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

### Identification Badges

Badge is centered ¼" below top edge of right pocket flap.

*If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button ¼" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers

## Black Socks

## Black Oxford Shoes



# Tropical Blue Long (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round at all occasions where coat and tie are not required.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## Light Blue Shirt, Short Sleeve

Overblouse optional. Military creases optional.

## Shoulder Boards (Officers)

## Collar Insignia (Enlisted)

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edges, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket (on overblouse, in approximately the same position).

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket (on overblouse, in approximately the same position).

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers/Slacks

Skirt optional.

## Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Operational Dress Uniform (*maternity*)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn by women during pregnancy and up to 60 days after returning from maternity leave on occasions where ODU would be appropriate.

Commanding officers may authorize civilian clothing when the maternity uniforms no longer fit comfortably.

*Enlisted Supplementary Clothing Allowance is payable per Reference (e), Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series).*

## Head Gear

Ball cap, unit ball cap, boonie hat, cold weather hat or watch cap.

## Maternity ODU Blouse

Sleeves rolled up or down.

## Coast Guard Blue Crew Neck T-Shirt

Unit T-shirt or unit sweatshirt, as authorized by the command. A long sleeve version of the standard T-shirt may optionally be worn when the sleeves are down on the ODU shirt. Thermal long sleeve undershirts may also be optionally worn under the required T-shirt (may not be visible above the neckline of the ODU T-shirt).

## Collar Insignia

Sew-on cloth insignia.

## Name Tape

Cloth name tape sewn above right pocket.

## Service Tape

Cloth "U. S. Coast Guard" ID tape sewn above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most current authorized. A single, embroidered insignia is authorized. Temporary insignia authorized.

## Miniature Devices

Embroidered device is authorized for incumbent COs/OinCs.

## Identification Badge

Only MCPOCG, Command Master Chief/Senior Chief/Chief and Rating Force Master Chiefs are authorized to wear a single, current assignment badge on the ODU.

## Maternity ODU Trousers

Bloused when worn with safety boots, straight leg otherwise.

## Black Socks

## Safety Boots



# Tropical Blue Long (*maternity*)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn by women during pregnancy and up to 60 days after returning from maternity leave on occasions where Tropical Blue Long or service dress blue Bravo uniform would be appropriate. Commanding officers may authorize civilian clothing when the maternity uniforms no longer fit comfortably.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## Maternity Dress Shirt

### Shoulder Boards (Officer)

### Collar Insignia (Enlisted)

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edge of light blue shirt, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

### Name Tag

Centered between second and third buttons on right side, approximating the same location as Tropical Blue Long, but moved slightly if necessary for comfort.

### Ribbons

Centered between second and third buttons on left side, approximating the same location as Tropical Blue Long, but moved slightly if necessary for comfort.

### Qualification Insignia, Miniature Devices, Identification Badges (full size)

All insignia, devices and badges will approximate the same locations as Tropical Blue Long.

### Maternity Dress Slacks

Maternity dress skirt optional.

### Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

### Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Winter Dress Blue (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn in lieu of SDB to compensate for climate variation.  
Not for functions where civilians would wear coat and tie.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## Dark Blue Dress Shirt Long Sleeve

Military creases optional. Permanent creases are not authorized, except for shirts purchased from the UDC with permanent silicone.

## Collar Insignia

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edges, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

## Tie

Blue four-in-hand tie, double Windsor knot only. Tie tack or tie clasp optional, aligned with the middle of shirt pocket.

Bar/tack will be plain gold or adorned with Coast Guard decoration such as officer/chief/enlisted insignia.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge ¼" above right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge ¼" above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered ¼" above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered ¼" below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered ¼" above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered ¼" below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button ¼" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges

Badge is centered ¼" below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button ¼" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers

## Black Socks

## Black Oxford Shoes



# Winter Dress Blue (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn in lieu of SDB to compensate for climate variation.  
Not for functions where civilians would wear coat and tie.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## Dark Blue Dress Shirt Long Sleeve

Military creases optional. Permanent creases are not authorized, except for shirts purchased from the UDC with permanent silicone.

## Collar Insignia

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edges, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

## Tie

Blue four-in-hand tie, double Windsor knot only. Tie tack or tie clasp optional, aligned with the middle of shirt pocket.  
Bar/tack will be plain gold or adorned with Coast Guard decoration such as officer/chief/enlisted insignia.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers/Slacks

Skirt optional.

## Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Service Dress Blue "Bravo" (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round by all personnel for all business and social occasions where civilian equivalent is coat and tie.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## SDB Coat

### Light Blue Shirt

Long or short sleeve.

### Shoulder Boards (Officer)

Worn on light blue shirt.

### Collar Insignia (Enlisted)

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edge of light blue shirt, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

## Tie

Blue four-in-hand tie, double Windsor knot only. Tie tack or tie clasp optional, aligned with the middle of shirt pocket. Bar/tack will be plain gold or adorned with Coast Guard decoration such as officer/chief/enlisted insignia.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge 1/4" over left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered 1/4" above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered 1/4" below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered 1/4" above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered 1/4" below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered 1/4" below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button 1/4" below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers

## Black Socks

## Black Oxford Shoes



# Service Dress Blue "Bravo" (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round by all personnel for all business and social occasions where civilian equivalent is coat and tie.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## SDB Coat

## Light Blue Shirt

Long or short sleeve. Overblouse optional.

## Shoulder Boards (Officer)

Worn on light blue shirt.

## Collar Insignia (Enlisted)

Metal collar rank insignia is centered between the visible top and bottom collar edge of light blue shirt, center of device is 1" and parallel from the leading edge.

## Tie

Blue tab tie.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

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Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers/Slacks

Skirt optional.

## Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Service Dress Blue "Alpha" (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round by all personnel when prescribed for functions that require more formality than provided by the SDB "Bravo" uniform, but less than Full Dress or Dinner Dress uniforms.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## SDB Coat

### Standard Long Sleeve White Shirt

### Shoulder Boards/Collar Insignia

None.

## Tie

Blue four-in-hand tie, double Windsor knot only. Tie tack or tie clasp optional, aligned with the middle of shirt pocket. Bar/tack will be plain gold or adorned with Coast Guard decoration such as officer/chief/enlisted insignia.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap.

*If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers

## Black Socks

## Black Oxford Shoes



# Service Dress Blue "Alpha" (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round by all personnel when prescribed for functions that require more formality than provided by the SDB "Bravo" uniform, but less than Full Dress or Dinner Dress uniforms.

## Head Gear

Combination cap or garrison cap.

## SDB Coat

## Standard Short Sleeve White Shirt

## Shoulder Boards/Collar Insignia

None.

## Tie

Blue tab tie.

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Miniature Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Long Trousers/Slacks

Skirt optional.

## Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Full Dress Blue (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in change of command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and/or solemnities.

## Head Gear

Combination cap.

## SDB Coat

### Long or Short Sleeve White Shirt

### Shoulder Boards/Collar Insignia/Name Tag

None.

## Tie

Blue four-in-hand required. Tie clip or tie bar optional.

## Ribbons (Without Corresponding Medals)

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket, in reverse order.

## Full Size Medals

Centered, placing lowest medal bar  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket flap.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Full Size Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

### Sword (Officers Only)

Worn with sword belt. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

## Long Trousers

## Black Socks

## Black Oxford Shoes



# Full Dress Blue (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Worn year-round when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in change of command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and/or solemnities.

## Head Gear

Combination cap.

## SDB Coat

## Long or Short Sleeve White Shirt

## Shoulder Boards/Collar Insignia/Name Tag

None.

## Tie

Blue tab tie.

## Ribbons (Without Corresponding Medals)

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket, in reverse order.

## Full Size Medals

Centered, placing lowest medal bar  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket flap.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. *If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.*

## Full Size Devices

Device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia: Devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.*

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap. *If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.*

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## Black Belt with Brass Buckle

## Sword (Officers Only)

Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn. Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.

## Long Trousers/Slacks

Skirt optional for women.

## Black Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. For women, plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Full Dress White (men & women)

## Occasions for Wear

Official summer uniform for officers when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in change of command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and solemnities.

## Head Gear

Combination cap.

## SDW Coat

### White Shirt & Blue Tab Tie

Women only.

## Hard Shoulder Boards

### Ribbons (Without Corresponding Medals)

Men: Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above right pocket, in reverse order.

Women: Centered in the same location as medals over the right pocket, in reverse order.

## Full Size Medals

Centered with lowest medal bar  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.

## Full Size Devices

Men: device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. Women: centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below ribbons. If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia, devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap.

If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## White Belt with Brass Buckle

### Sword

Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn.

*Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear the sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.*

## White Trousers/Slacks

White skirt optional for women.

## White Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. For women, plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## White Oxford Shoes

For women, option to wear white pumps or white flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.



# Service Dress White (men & women)



## Occasions for Wear

Official summer uniform for officers when assuming or relinquishing command, participating in change of command ceremonies, official visits with honors, occasions of state, ceremonies, weddings and solemnities.

## Head Gear

Combination cap.

## SDW Coat

## White Shirt & Blue Tab Tie

Women only.

## Hard Shoulder Boards

## Name Tag

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " over right pocket.

## Ribbons

Centered with bottom edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " over left pocket.

## Qualification Insignia

Most recent qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above ribbons or top of pocket on the left. Second qualification insignia is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below upper edge of pocket flap. If assigned as incumbent CO/OinC, device is worn centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above name tag.

## Miniature Devices

Men: device is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of left pocket flap. Women: centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below ribbons. If wearing two formerly earned devices with or without an insignia, devices are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned device placed inboard.

## Identification Badges (Full Size)

Badge is centered  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of right pocket flap.

If wearing two formerly earned badges: Badges are symmetrically centered on either side of the button  $\frac{1}{4}$ " below top edge of pocket flap, with most recently earned badge placed inboard.

## White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

## White Belt with Brass Buckle

## Sword

Worn with sword belt. Women must wear trousers when sword is worn.

*Senior officer may prescribe certain individuals to not wear the sword if considered inappropriate or undesirable.*

## White Trousers/Slacks

White skirt optional for women.

## White Socks or Hosiery

Socks are worn with oxfords. For women, plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

## White Oxford Shoes

For women, option to wear white pumps or white flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (men)

## Occasions for Wear

Official winter evening black tie functions, such as formal dances/weddings, theater, opera, receptions, etc. Required for active duty O-4 and above, as well as MCPOCG, MCPO-CGR and gold badge CMCs. Optional otherwise.

## Head Gear

Combination cap (only when wearing outerwear).

## Navy Dinner Dress Blue Jacket

### Dress Coat Buttons

Substitute Coast Guard buttons for Navy buttons.

### Long Sleeve White Shirt

Soft pleated long sleeve. Standard long sleeve optional.

### Shoulder Boards/ Collar Insignia

None.

### Tie

Black bow tie.

### Small Medals

Centered 3" below left lapel notch.

### Miniature Qualification Insignia

Center the insignia on the wearer's left lapel approximately ¼" above small medals.

### Miniature Devices

Device is centered on the lapel, ¼" below bottom edge of small medals.

### Miniature Identification Badges

Centered on the lapel, 3" below right lapel notch.

### White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

### White Suspenders

Optional.

### Gold Cummerbund

Worn with pleats up.

### Blue Evening Trousers

### Black Socks

### Black Oxford Shoes



# Dinner Dress Blue Jacket (women)



## Occasions for Wear

Official winter evening black tie functions, such as formal dances/weddings, theater, opera, receptions, etc. Required for active duty O-4 and above, as well as MCPOCG, MCPO-CGR and gold badge CMCs. Optional otherwise.

## Head Gear

None.

## Navy Dinner Dress Blue Jacket

### Dress Coat Buttons

Substitute Coast Guard buttons for Navy buttons.

### White Shirt

Soft pleated long sleeve.

### Shoulder Boards/Collar Insignia

None.

### Tie

Black formal dress necktie.

### Small Medals

Centered left lapel, one-third of distance between shoulder and bottom hem of jacket.

### Miniature Qualification Insignia

Center the insignia on the wearer's left lapel approximately ¼" above small medals.

### Miniature Devices

Device is centered on the lapel, ¼" below bottom edge of small medals.

### Miniature Identification Badges

Centered on right lapel, equal to qualification insignia.

### White Gloves

Worn at the prescribing officer's discretion.

### White Suspenders

Optional.

### Gold Cummerbund

Worn with pleats up.

### Blue Evening Trousers/Slacks

Blue formal skirt optional.

### Black Socks or Hosiery

Plain, flesh-colored hosiery with flats or pumps; black or flesh-colored hosiery (including knee-highs) may be worn with oxfords, pumps or flats when wearing trousers.

### Black Oxford Shoes

Option to wear pumps or flats; pumps are mandatory with skirt.

# U.S. MILITARY UNIFORMS – TABLE OF EQUIVALENTS

|                           |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Coast Guard  | Navy  | Marine Corps  | Army  | Air Force  | When Worn   |
| <b>Operational Dress (ODU)</b><br><i>(Worn year round)</i>   | Navy Working Uniform  | Utility   | Battle Dress  | Utility  | When working at a unit or when in environments where soiling of clothing is expected. May be worn commuting and brief stops for gas or drive-thru. This is not a liberty uniform. |
| <b>Tropical Blue Long (TB)</b><br><i>(Worn year round)</i>   | Summer Khaki/Whites   | Service "C"   | Class "B" Army Green  | Service Uniform  | To compensate for climate variations as per prescribing authority and where coat and tie are not required or expected.  |
| <b>Winter Dress Blue</b><br><i>(Normally worn Nov– March, or as local prescribing authority dictates.)</i> | Winter Blue/Aviation Working Green  | Service "B"   |   |  |   |
| <b>Service Dress Blue (SDB)</b><br><i>(Worn year round)</i>  | Service Dress Blue  | Service "A"   | Class "A" Army Green  | Service Dress  | Business and informal social occasions as correct for local custom.   |
| <b>Service Dress White (SDW)</b><br><i>(Summer/Tropical)</i>   | Service Dress White   |   | Army White  |  |   |
| <b>Full Dress Blue (FDB)</b><br><i>(Worn year round)</i>   | Full Dress Blue   | Dress Blue "A" or "B"   | Class "A" Army Green/Blue   | Ceremonial Dress Blue  | Worn year-round for Change of Command ceremonies, parades, and reviews when special honors are being paid, such as official visits of and to U.S. and foreign officials.          |
| <b>Full Dress White</b><br><i>(Summer/Tropical) (Officers only)</i>  | Full Dress White  | Dress White "A" or "B"  | Army White  | Ceremonial Dress White   |   |
| <b>Dinner Dress Blue</b><br><i>(Winter)</i>  | Dinner Dress Blue   | Dress Blue "A"  | Army Blue (bow-tie)   | Ceremonial Dress Blue  | Same as Dinner/Mess Dress but less formal occasions requiring more formality than service uniforms.   |
| <b>Dinner Dress White</b><br><i>(Summer) (Officers only)</i>   | Dinner Dress White  | Dress White "A"   | Army White (bow-tie)  | Ceremonial Dress White   |   |
| <b>Dinner Dress Blue Jacket</b><br><i>(Winter)</i>   | Dinner Dress Blue Jacket  | Evening Dress   | Blue Mess Dress   | Blue Mess Dress  | Equivalent to black tie. Winter/summer evening formal functions, dinners, dinner dances or club affairs.  |
| <b>Dinner Dress White Jacket</b><br><i>(Summer)</i>  | Dinner Dress White Jacket   | Mess Dress  | White Mess Dress  |  |   |
| <b>Formal Dress Blue</b><br><i>(Worn year round)</i>   | Formal Dress  | Evening Dress   | Blue Mess or Evening Dress  | Blue Formal Dress  | Equivalent to white tie. Official formal evening functions after 6:00 p.m. such as state occasions and diplomatic service.  |

# Uniform Accessories

## HEADGEAR

### Men's Combination Cap

For wear with all uniforms (except ODU). Military cap with a black visor, rigid standing front, flaring circular rim, a detachable plain white cover (smooth, wrinkle free, cloth or vinyl), and a blue cap band and mount for attaching the large cap insignia. Officers wear a metal or embroidered eagle, chiefs wear the enlarged version of the collar insignia, enlisted wear the Coast Guard medallion. Chinstraps are ½" wide, laced with gold lace (officers) or black patent leather (enlisted) with the chinstrap grommet positioned to the wearer's left. Clear, plastic, rain covers are optional. For flag officers, the visor is covered in two rows of gold acorns and oak leaves along the entire width of the visor. For captains and commanders, the visor has one row.



### Women's Combination Cap

For wear with all uniforms (except ODU). Consists of a stiffened oval crown with detachable plain white cover (smooth, wrinkle free, cloth or vinyl), a 1¼" wide blue cap band with mount for insignia and a blue brim. The brim is rolled at the sides and flat in the front and back. Two blue streamers are attached to the band at the back. Officers wear a metal or embroidered eagle, chiefs wear the enlarged version of the collar insignia, enlisted wear the Coast Guard medallion. For officers, chinstraps are ½" wide, faced with gold lace. Clear, plastic, rain covers are optional. For flag officers, the band is covered in two rows of gold acorns and oak leaves along the entire width. For captains and commanders, the band has one row.



### Garrison Cap

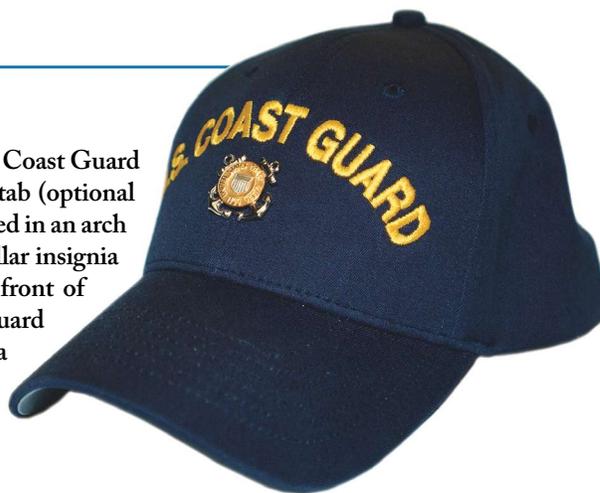
For wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long, and Winter Dress Blue. A fore-and-aft style cap made of Coast Guard blue serge fabric. When not worn, cover is folded and tucked under the belt on the right side of the body with the Coast Guard insignia facing outward. The center of the insignia is placed 1½" from the bottom of the cap, and 2" from the front crease. Enlisted (E4-E9) wear only one insignia denoting their rank, positioned on the right side of the cap. Personnel E-3 and below the garrison cap insignia shall consist of the miniature version of the silver and gold Coast Guard medallion. Officers wear two insignia, the left insignia on the garrison cap shall consist of the miniature version of the eagle worn on the combination cap and the right insignia shall be of the same design as the collar insignia.



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### Standard or Unit Ball Cap

For wear with ODU and flight suits. This cap is made of the same Coast Guard blue material as the ODU with a rear hook and loop adjusting tab (optional fitted cap is authorized) and "U.S. COAST GUARD" embroidered in an arch in 1/2" gold letters. E-4 and above shall wear metal rank/grade collar insignia on the ball cap, 1" to 1 1/4" above the visor (or centered on the front of the cap). E-3 and below shall wear the silver and gold Coast Guard medallion (same worn on the garrison cap). Brims shall have a natural curve; flat or creased brims are not authorized.



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### NWU Type III Cap

An eight-point, USMC-style cap worn only with the NWU Type III uniform. E-4 and above will wear the appropriate embroidered rank insignia centered on the front of the cap. The bottom of the insignia will be approximately 1 1/4" from the visor.

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### Boonie Cap (optional)

The boonie cap may be worn with the ODU in lieu of the ball cap for environmental protection (unless greater uniformity is required as directed by the command). It is intended to provide sun protection and should only be worn when engaging in working environments where prolonged exposure to sun is encountered or anticipated. ODU sew-on rank insignia will be placed in the front center between the brim and the crown. Curling, bending, folding or otherwise distorting the brim is not authorized.



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### Cold Weather Cap (optional)

Cap used for inclement cold weather use only with all Coast Guard outerwear. It consists of ear and neck flaps, and straps with covered metal snap fasteners worn under the chin or over the top of the hat. The winter cap shall be worn with the appropriate combination cap-type insignia, worn centered on the cap visor. The front flap shall remain snapped in the upright position at all times.

## UNIFORM OUTERWEAR

### Cardigan Sweater (optional)

The button-front cardigan style sweater is made of acrylic/wool blend material with epaulets. Wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long and Winter Dress Blue. Officers wear enhanced shoulder boards; enlisted do not wear insignia. Sweater may be worn in lieu of the SDB coat, unless the coat is more appropriate. When wearing the sweater with any opened collared shirt, wear the collar on the outside. Sweater may be worn underneath outerwear, as long as it does not extend below coat bottom. Must remain buttoned, unless worn over the maternity uniform after first trimester.



### Woolly-Pully Sweater (optional)

The woolly-pully sweater is made from wool or synthetic yarns in a rib knit V-neck design with epaulets. Wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long and Winter Dress Blue. Officers wear enhanced shoulder boards; enlisted do not wear insignia. Sweater may be worn in lieu of the SDB coat, unless the coat is more appropriate. When wearing the sweater with any opened collared shirt, wear the collar on the outside. Sweater may be worn underneath outerwear, as long as it does not extend below coat bottom.

### Trench Coat

A blue double-breasted polyester/cotton with four-button closure, shoulder epaulets, belted waist, and removable liner. Wear with all uniforms except ODU. Officers wear large rank insignia on epaulets; enlisted do not wear insignia. Coat should extend to a point approximately 2" below the back of the knee when standing.



### Windbreaker

A single-breasted polyester/wool blend material jacket with plain collar, epaulets, zippered front closure, welt pockets and removable, vest-style, quilted liner. Wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long and Winter Dress Blue. Officers wear large rank insignia on epaulets. E-7 and above wear collar device on the collar. E-6 and below do not wear rank. Windbreaker may be worn in lieu of the SDB coat, unless the coat is more appropriate.



### Bridge Coat (optional)

A Coast Guard blue, calf length double-breasted coat made of wool-Melton-type fabric with 35-ligne buttons and two ornamental belt sections attached by gold buttons at the rear waist of the coat. Wear with all dress uniforms. Hard shoulder boards are worn.



### Reefer Coat (optional)

A Coast Guard blue, double-breasted, hip-length coat with convertible collar, set-in pockets and 35-ligne Coast Guard gilt buttons. Wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long and Winter Dress Blue. Officers wear hard shoulder boards. Enlisted do not wear rank.



### Foul Weather Parka

The foul weather parka has a Coast Guard blue waterproof, laminated supplex nylon and Gore-Tex outer shell with foldaway hood. It has a tab on the front for placement of the embroidered fabric rank device mandatory for E-4 and above. Wear with SDB, Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress Blue and ODU. May be worn with optional fleece liner zipped in. Hood must be stowed when not in use.

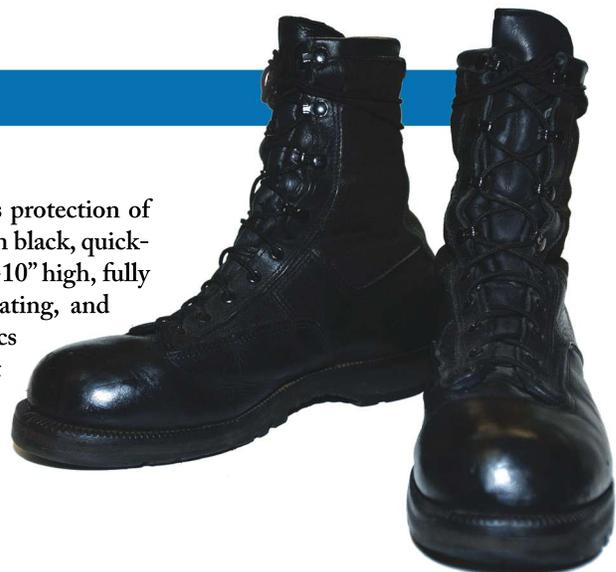
### Fleece Liner

A FWP fitted blue fleece liner with waist drawstring. Placement of embroidered rank insignia on front tab is mandatory for E-4 and above when worn with ODU as standalone jacket. (Legacy fleece liners are not authorized as standalone jackets.)

## UNIFORM FOOTWEAR

### Safety Boots

Safety shoes must be worn while performing work that requires protection of the feet. The standard-issue safety boot is the Super Boot IV, plain black, quick-laced, high-top boot with a reinforced composite toe. They are 8-10" high, fully lined with waterproof liner, have brass eyelets with rubber coating, and black laces. Members may wear boots with similar characteristics and appearance. Boots must comply with ASTM document (ASTM-F2413-11).



### Men's Black or White Oxfords

The men's dress shoe is made of smooth black or white leather or a synthetic substitute (Corfram®) of the lace-up plain oxford style. They will have heels, no higher than 1" and be of low-cut, plain style without decoration. For men, stitching or seams across the toe (e.g., cap toe, wing tip, etc.) are not authorized. Sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe.

Wear with dress uniforms, SDB, Tropical Blue Long, and Winter Dress. Wear white oxfords with white uniforms.



### Women's Black or White Oxfords

The women's dress shoe is made of smooth black or white leather or a synthetic substitute (Corfram®) of the lace-up plain oxford style. They will have heels, no higher than 1" and be of low-cut, plain style without decoration. For men, stitching or seams across the toe (e.g., cap toe, wing tip, etc.) are not authorized. Sole edges, heels, and laces must be the same color as the shoe.

Wear with dress uniforms, SDB, Tropical Blue Long, and Winter Dress. Wear white oxfords with white uniforms.



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### Pumps (optional)

Pumps will be plain in style, with no decoration, made of smooth black (or white) leather or high gloss material. Sole edges and heels will be the same color as the shoe with heels and toes closed in. The heel may be 1" to 2 5/8" high, and no less than 1/2" wide at the floor. Black pumps are optional with dress uniforms, SDB, Tropical Blue Long, and Winter Dress Blue; white pumps are optional with white uniforms. Pumps become mandatory if optional skirt is worn.



### Flats (optional)

A flat, wedge-style sole that rises 1" is authorized. Flats will be plain in style, made of smooth leather or high gloss material. Sole edges and heels will be the same color as the shoe. The heels and toes will be closed in. Wear flats in the same manner as pumps: white with white uniforms, black otherwise. Flats may not be worn with skirts.



## UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

### Black Belt

The black belt is made of nylon black webbing with an attached brass or brass colored or subdued clip end (metal tip). Wear with Dress Blue Trousers.



### Basic Riggers Belt

The basic riggers belt is made of 1¾"-wide black nylon fabric with a sewn-on subdued, fast-cinch buckle. When worn, the bitter end should be behind but not past the first belt loop on the wearer's left. Worn only with ODU trousers.



### White Belt

The white belt is made of white webbing with an attached brass or brass colored clip end (metal tip). Wear with Dress White trousers.

### Scarves

White scarf is of conventional size and made of tightly woven wool, silk, or synthetic material of plain, unadorned design. Wear with all uniforms.

Tuck scarves into the outer garment.

Blue scarf is of conventional size and made of tightly dark blue woven wool, silk, or synthetic material of plain, unadorned design. Wear with Operational Dress Uniform.

Tuck scarves into the outer garment.



## Extras

### Standard Handbag

A handbag of plain black, navy or white (with white uniforms) leather or synthetic material, with or without plain fold-over flap, not more than 12" wide, 8" high, and 5" deep. It may have a detachable shoulder strap and may be used with or without the strap. Wear with Full Dress Blue, Dinner Dress, SDB, Tropical Blue Long, Winter Dress and ODU.

### Dress Handbag

A dress handbag (small clutch type black/white bag with collapsible handle) is authorized with the Formal Dress or Dinner Dress Jacket uniforms.

### Black Gloves

Black gloves are made of plain leather or other suitable material with matching stitching. Wear with all uniforms.

### White Gloves

White gloves are made of plain white cotton or synthetic material with matching stitching. Wear with dress uniforms, or when required for other ceremonial purposes.

### Suspenders (optional)

Plain white suspenders without design or ornamentation are authorized with Formal Dress and Dinner Dress Jackets. Suspenders are not worn without the appropriate jacket or coat.

### Blousing Bands

Elastic, Velcro, or spring bands can be used to blouse ODU trouser legs over safety boots. Blousing bands will be located between the second and third eyelets from the top of the boot. Blousing bands should not be visible. Bootlaces should not show or dangle but must be concealed under the blousing band or tucked into the boot.

### Umbrella

Only black or navy umbrellas with expandable, straight handles are authorized. They must be carried in the left hand. Can be used with all uniforms.

### Eyewear or Sunglasses:

Personnel will not wear items that distract from military bearing. Sunglass frames must be conservative (plain black or navy; gold or silver wire) and mirrored lenses are prohibited. Sunglasses are not authorized in formation. Personnel will not wear lenses or frames that are so large or so small that they detract from the appearance of the uniform. Plain black/navy eyewear retainer straps are authorized to be worn with ODU/TB/WDB in a work environment. Eyewear will not be worn on top/back of the head/cover.

## SEABAG CHECKLIST

The following items are required for all enlisted personnel:

- 1 Green Duffle Bag
- 4 ODU Blouses
- 4 ODU Trousers
- 4 ODU T-shirts
- 4 Sets of ODU Name/Service Tapes
- 1 Black Riggers Belt
- 3 Pair Boot Socks
- 2 Pair Blousing Band
- 1 Pair Safety Boots (Composite Toe)
- 1 Standard Ball Cap with Insignia
- 1 Foul Weather Parka
- 1 Fleece Liner
- 1 Blue Necktie/Tab Tie
- 1 Pair Black Leather Gloves
- 1 Black Bow tie/Tab Tie
- 1 Windbreaker
- 1 Trench Coat
- 1 SDB Coat



- 3 Long Sleeve Light Blue Shirts
- 3 Short Sleeve Light Blue Shirts  
(Women, Sub 1 Overblouse for 1 Shirt)
- 1 Long Sleeve White Dress Shirt  
(Women, Short Sleeve)
- 2 Pair Dress Trousers/Slacks,
- 2 Plastic Name Tags
- 1 Black Belt with Brass Buckle
- 1 Pair Dress Socks
- 1 Pair Dress Shoes
- 1 Garrison Cap with Insignia
- 1 Combination Cap with Insignia
- 2 Gym Shirts
- 2 Gym Shorts

# Sun's out, guns out: Here's how to roll your ODU sleeves

The ODU is worn with sleeves rolled up or down with cuffs buttoned, at the individual's preference, unless greater uniformity is required by the command (uniform inspections, boarding teams, official visits, etc.).

When properly rolled, the cuff will be about two inches above the elbow (mid-bicep), with only the cuff visible.

Fully extend and flatten the sleeve on a level surface.



2



Starting at the cuff, turn sleeve inside-out to armpit. Flatten the sleeve to remove folds and creases.

3



Starting at the folded edge, roll the sleeve up twice in equal rolls. Both rolls should measure about as wide as the width of the cuff.

4



Finally, turn the cuff down over the last fold. Flatten the cuff to remove any folds or creases.

5



When properly done, only the cuff should be visible. With practice, you'll learn how and where to make your folds, based on the length and size of your arm.

# RIBBONS



Medal of Honor



Coast Guard Cross



Navy Cross



Distinguished Service Cross



Air Force Cross



Homeland Security Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Star



DOT Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement



Defense Superior Service Medal



Guardian Medal



Legion of Merit



Distinguished Flying Cross



Purple Heart



Defense Meritorious Service Medal



Meritorious Service Medal



Air Medal



Silver Lifesaving Medal



DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement



Joint Service Achievement Medal



DOT 9-11 Medal



Coast Guard Achievement Medal



Navy Achievement Medal



Army Achievement Medal



Air Force Achievement Medal



Air Force Gallant Unit Citation



Joint Meritorious Unit Award



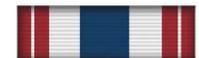
DOT Outstanding Unit Award



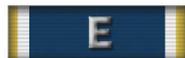
Coast Guard Unit Commendation



Navy Unit Commendation



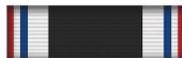
Air Force Meritorious Unit Award



Navy "E" Ribbon



Bicentennial Unit Commendation



Prisoner of War Medal



Good Conduct Medal



Navy Good Conduct Medal



Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal



Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal



Enlisted Person of the Year Ribbon



Navy Expeditionary Medal



Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



National Defense Service Medal



Antarctica Service Medal



Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal



Global War on Terrorism Service Medal



Korea Defense Service Medal



Armed Forces Service Medal



Humanitarian Service Medal



Overseas Service Ribbon



Navy Overseas Service Ribbon



Army Overseas Service Ribbon



Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Short)



Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (Long)



Navy Arctic Service Ribbon



Armed Forces Reserve Medal



UN Medal



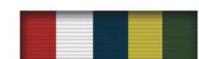
NATO Medal



NATO Kosovo Medal



Multinational Force & Observers Medal



Inter-American Defense Board Medal

## DEVICES



5/16 Gold Star



3/16 Silver Star



Silver Oak Leaf



Bronze Oak Leaf



3/16 Bronze Star



3/16 Silver Star



Operational



Combat Valor



Hurricane



**Transportation Distinguished Service Medal**



**Defense Distinguished Service Medal**



**Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal**



**Navy Distinguished Service Medal**



**Army Distinguished Service Medal**



**Air Force Distinguished Service Medal**



**Coast Guard Medal**



**Navy & Marine Corps Medal**



**Soldier's Medal**



**Airmen's Medal**



**Gold Lifesaving Medal**



**Bronze Star**



**Joint Service Commendation Medal**



**Coast Guard Commendation Medal**



**Navy Commendation Medal**



**Army Commendation Medal**



**Air Force Commendation Medal**



**DOT Secretary's Award for Superior Achievement**



**Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon**



**Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon**



**Navy Combat Action Ribbon**



**Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation**



**Navy Presidential Unit Citation**



**Army/ Air Force Presidential Unit Citation**



**Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation**



**Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation**



**Air Force Outstanding Unit Award**



**Air Force Organizational Excellence Award**



**Meritorious Team Commendation**



**Coast Guard "E" Ribbon**



**Army Good Conduct Medal**



**Air Force Good Conduct Medal**



**Reserve Good Conduct Medal**



**Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal**



**Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal**



**Reserve Components Achievement Medal**



**CG Arctic Service Medal**



**Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**



**Southwest Asia Service Medal**



**Kosovo Campaign Medal**



**Afghanistan Campaign Medal**



**Iraq Campaign Medal**



**DOT 9-11 Ribbon**



**Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal**



**CG Special Operations Service Ribbon**



**CG Sea Service Ribbon**



**Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon**



**CG Restricted Duty Ribbon**



**Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon**



**Army NCO Professional Military Graduate Ribbon**



**Air Force NCO Professional Military Graduate Ribbon**



**CG Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon**



**Air Force Basic Training Honor Graduate Ribbon**



**Recruiting Service Ribbon**



**Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)**



**Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)**



**Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon**



**Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon**



**Expert Rifle/Pistol**



**Sharp Shooter Rifle/Pistol**



**Mobilization**



**Numeral**



**Silver Wintered Over**



**Gold Wintered Over**



**Bronze Wintered Over**



**Gold Hourglass**



**Silver Hourglass**



**Bronze Hourglass**

# OFFICER RANKS



O-1

Ensign



O-2

Lieutenant  
Junior Grade



O-3

Lieutenant



O-4

Lieutenant  
Commander



O-5

Commander



O-6

Captain



O-7

Rear Admiral  
(Lower Half)



O-8

Rear Admiral



O-9

Vice Admiral



O-10

Admiral



# CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS



CWO2

Chief Warrant Officer 2



CWO3

Chief Warrant Officer 3



CWO4

Chief Warrant Officer 4



# SPECIALTIES



Aviation  
Engineering



Bandmaster



Boatswain



Diving  
Specialist



Electronics



Finance &  
Supply



Info. Systems  
Management



Intelligence  
Systems Specialist



Investigator



Marine Safety  
Specialist Deck



Marine Safety  
Specialist Engineering



Marine Safety  
Specialist Response



Maritime Law  
Enforcement Specialist



Material  
Maintenance



Medical  
Administration



Naval  
Engineering



Operations Systems  
Specialist



Port Security  
Specialist



Personnel  
Administration



Public  
Information



Weapons

# ENLISTED RATES



**E-1**

Seaman  
Recruit



**E-2**

Seaman  
Apprentice



**E-3**

Airman



**E-3**

Fireman



**E-3**

Seaman



**E-3**

Seaman  
(Rated)



**E-4**

Petty Officer  
Third Class



**E-5**

Petty Officer  
Second Class



**E-6**

Petty Officer  
First Class



**E-7**

Chief  
Petty Officer



**E-8**

Senior Chief  
Petty Officer



**E-9**

Master Chief  
Petty Officer



Command  
Master Chief



**E-9**



Command  
Master Chief



**MCPO-CGR**

(Also Deputy MCPOCG,  
Area, DCO, DCMS)



**MCPOCG**

Master Chief Petty Officer  
of the Coast Guard



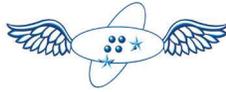
## RATINGS



Aviation Maintenance  
Technician (AMT)



Aviation Survival  
Technician (AST)



Avionics Electrical  
Technician (AET)



Boatswain's Mate  
(BM)



Culinary  
Specialist (CS)



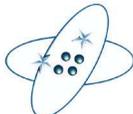
Damage  
Controlman (DC)



Diver  
(DV)



Electrician's  
Mate (EM)



Electronics  
Technician (ET)



Gunner's Mate  
(GM)



Health Services  
Technician (HS)



Information Systems  
Technician (IT)



Intelligence  
Specialist (IS)



Investigator  
(IV)



Machinery  
Technician (MK)



Marine Science  
Technician  
(MST)



Maritime  
Enforcement  
Specialist (ME)



Musician  
(MU)



Operations  
Specialist (OS)



Public Affairs  
Specialist (PA)



Storekeeper  
(SK)



Yeoman  
(YN)

# BADGES



Presidential Service



Vice Presidential Service



Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security



Office of the Secretary of Transportation



Joint Chiefs of Staff



Office of the Secretary of Defense



Commandant's Staff



Band Badge



Recruiting (School Graduate)



Recruiting

# COMMAND CHIEF'S BADGES



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve



Area Command Master Chief



DCO Command Master Chief



DCMS Command Master Chief



Deputy MCPOCG



Rating Force Master Chief



Command Master Chief



Command Chiefs (Commandant Designated)



Command Chiefs (Collateral Duty)

# DEVICES



Command Afloat



Command Ashore



Officer in Charge Afloat



Officer in Charge Ashore

# INSIGNIA



**Port Security  
(Officer)**



**Port Security  
(Enlisted)**



**Boat Force Operations  
(Advanced)**



**Boat Force Operations**



**Cutterman  
(Officer)**



**Cutterman  
(Enlisted)**



**Coxswain**



**Surfman**



**Marine Safety**



**Enlisted Expeditionary  
Warfare Specialist**



**Surface Warfare  
(Officer)**



**Surface Warfare  
(Enlisted)**



**Diving Officer**



**Master Diver**



**Diving Medical  
Technician**



**First Class Diver**



**Second Class Diver**



**Scuba Diver  
(Officer)**



**Scuba Diver  
(Enlisted)**



**Aviator**



**Air Crew**



**Aviation Rescue Swimmer**



**Flight Surgeon**



**Mission Specialist**



**Flight Officer**



**Astronaut**



**Coast Guard Ceremonial  
Honor Guard**



**Company Commander**



**Law Enforcement Detachment/  
Tactical Law Enforcement Team**



**Physician Assistant/  
Nurse Practitioner**



*“Appearance in uniform is a key element for how the public perceives the men and women of the Coast Guard, and how the Coast Guard men and women honor their country and the service. Coast Guard personnel are responsible for adhering to uniform and grooming standards applicable to their gender, and maintaining their personal appearance and their uniforms to reflect the long and proud history and traditions of the Coast Guard. Commands and personnel in leadership positions at every level are responsible to promote and enforce high standards for uniform appearance. Coast Guard personnel must maintain proper military decorum and present themselves with pride.”*

— COMDTINST M1020.6 (series)

Commanding Officer (mas)  
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Topeka, KS 66683-3591

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